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THE CENTER ADDITION

by Joe McMoneagle

Joe McMoneagle is a professional remote viewer. Through his company, Intuitive Intelligence Applications, Joe provides consulting services in parapsychological research and development. His clients include research institutions and numerous private companies engaged in mining archaeology, investments, and oil/water exploration. He is also a consultant to The Monroe Institute in a variety of capacities, including construction and subcontracting of the Center addition.

It's one p.m., and the worker bees are converging on the Center building addition. Arriving in much the same way as volunteer firemen responding to a call, a number of vehicles, trucks and cars, descend upon the building, one behind the other, skidding to a halt. People pile out, donning nail aprons and equipment belts, carrying tools by the armload into the addition. Within minutes, power cords are hooked up and the hum of saws and drills echoes down through the valley. The banging of hammers and the occasional yell (expletive deleted) from a thumb well struck, resound throughout the construction area. At twenty minutes past three, as quickly as it all began, the workers scurry to their trucks and cars. Throwing the tools into the back seats or tool carriers, they quickly start their engines and pull rapidly away from the building, their tires scattering bits of gravel and dust. Silence once again settles upon the Center, only seconds before the next tape.

How much can be done in just two hours and twenty minutes? Some will tell you little, but here, now that's a different story. Many are aware that the construction has been going on for a considerable time. In the business of construction, time is important, because time relates directly to quality of work as well as expense. At the Institute we had a third consideration, and that dealt with reducing the impact of the construction on our guests and participants. Since this and quality were our prime concerns, it took a great deal of time to reach completion. It was hard not wanting to rush the finish, in what started approximately a year ago. Our patient efforts have finally paid off.

How much has been accomplished over a year? Well, beginning with the upper floor, there are four new CHEC units that have replaced the ones previously located in the basement of the older section of the building. There are some differences in these units, as evidenced by the extreme low range speakers built into the side walls next to the pillow areas. There are five full baths which have been added to this floor, which should reduce the burden on bathrooms in the older area of the Center Building. In addition to the full baths, there is a unisex, half-bath area, consisting of three private stalls with shared sinks.

The next floor down consists of a large private dining area. There are booths to one side and a settee, faced with smaller tables, for intimate settings for two. In the case of a large meeting or gathering, tables can be combined before the settee and provide seating for 30+ people. In the corner of the dining area is a more private meeting room where discussions can be held with wrap-around views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounding hills and valleys. The dining

area is accented with ceiling-to-floor columns, and tastefully selected wallpapers, paints and decor. There are his-and-her powder rooms by the entry and a large pantry and storage area behind the north wall. On the south wall are two French doors which provide access to a private deck.

On the ground floor, beneath the dining area, is a very large exercise room. There are mirrors on two walls and a large workout area with mats and exercise equipment. Adjacent to this room is a special room set aside for massage. The rear door of this area opens to the courtyard behind the Center which, when finished, will be fully landscaped as a garden and sitting area.

Tying all three floors together is a 41-foot tower. Set with bronzed glass and trimmed in black/green paint, it gives the appearance of being a large topaz, polished on five sides and delicately framed and embedded within the primary structure. The spiral staircase, consisting of over 50 steps and four separate platforms, culminates in an exit onto a rooftop sun deck. Each of the tower's levels affords a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside, where each of the seasons can be enjoyed by the participants, or just counting the stars can become an enjoyable pastime.

There are too many innovative thoughts and ideas, feelings and emotions invested within the addition to be listed here. Most are a result of the care and devotion to the project by the ultimate innovator, Bob Monroe.

It was difficult at times, working around restricted noise periods. But, with the cooperation of local contractors and employees of the Institute (both part-time as well as full-time), we accomplished the impossible: a 5000+ square-foot addition to the Center. Also, a special thanks must be given to the participants over the past year. They have been our greatest support, every one of them. Those who have requested that special tour, who have oooooh'd and aaaaah'd at the view, who have complimented each of the worker bees, and have never complained about the transitional period: Yes, to you, we owe a special thanks.

What is planned for the future?

"... er ... what's that, Bob? You want to build a what? Beginning in February?"

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